

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for obtaining at least one calibration
2 profile for an image scanning apparatus, the system
3 comprising:
 - 4 a light source;
 - 5 a calibration image having a surface illuminated by the
6 light source;
 - 7 a detector to measure an intensity of light obtained from
8 a plurality of points on the calibration image;
 - 9 a first memory to store a first plurality of light
10 intensity values measured by the detector at each of the
11 points; and
 - 12 a smoothing module to smooth the plurality of light
13 intensity values in the first memory so as to form a
14 calibration profile.
- 1 2. A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a
2 value corrector to correct a second plurality of light
3 intensity values measured by the detector for the light
4 obtained from an arbitrary image at each of the points
5 using the calibration data.

1 3. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2 calibration image has uniform reflectivity across the
3 surface

1 4. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the smoothing
2 module is useful to employ filtering.

1 5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the smoothing
2 module is useful to employ extrapolation and decimation
3 upon data of a subset of the plurality of points.

1 5. A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the filtering
2 includes multirate filtering.

1 6. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the detector
2 is also useful to measure an intensity of light obtained
3 from a dark image at the plurality of points, and the
4 first memory is to also store a plurality of black
5 intensity values measured by the detector at each of the
6 points to form a black calibration profile.

1 7. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein the smoothing
2 module is also useful to smooth the plurality of black
3 intensity values in the first memory.

1 8. A system as recited in claim 7, wherein the smoothing
2 module is useful to employ extrapolation, filtering and
3 decimation upon data of a subset of the plurality of
4 points.

1 9. A system for scanning images, the system comprising:

2 means for providing light;

3 means for measuring at a number of points on a
4 transparent object, the intensity of light emitted from
5 the means for providing light transmitted through the
6 transparent object to form a first raw profile; and

7 means for smoothing the first raw profile to form a
8 calibration profile.

1 10. A system for scanning images as recited in claim 9,
2 further comprising:

3 means for measuring the intensity of light from the light
4 transmitted through an opaque object at the number of
5 points to form a second raw profile; and

6 means for smoothing the second raw profile to form a
7 black calibration profile.

1 11. A system for scanning images as recited in claim 9,
2 further comprising:

3 means for measuring the intensity of light from the light
4 transmitted through a semi-transparent object at the
5 number of points to form a semi-transparent object
6 profile; and

7 means for correcting the semi-transparent object profile
8 using the calibration profile.

1 12. A system for scanning images as recited in claim 11,
2 further comprising means for correcting the semi-
3 transparent object profile using the black calibration
4 profile.

1 13. A method for improving an initial calibration
2 profile having an initial profile extent to form an
3 improved calibration profile, the initial calibration
4 profile formed for a scanner employing a linear array CCD
5 and having a direction of motion, the method comprising:

6 forming for the initial calibration profile an
7 extended profile extent in the direction of
8 motion using quadratic extrapolation;

9 applying multirate filtering to the extended
10 profile to form a filtered profile; and

11 truncating the filtered profile to bring it to
12 the initial profile extent to form the improved
13 calibration profile.

1 14. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising
2 comparing the improved calibration profile to the initial
3 calibration profile to determine at least one occurrence
4 of a problem condition; and flagging said at least one
5 occurrence.

1 15. A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising
2 evaluating the flags of said at least one occurrence to
3 determine the usability of the improved calibration
4 profile.

1 16. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the
2 calibration profile is a white calibration profile.

1 17. A method as in claim 13, wherein the step of forming
2 extends a subset of the initial calibration profile by a
3 factor of four.

1 18. A system as in claim 1, wherein the calibration
2 image is obtained from chromalin paper.

1 19. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the detector
2 is a CCD detector.

1 20. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2 plurality of points are positions of pixels of the
3 calibration image, the calibration image having x rows of
4 pixels and y columns of pixels.

1 21. A method for developing a valid calibration profile
2 for a scanning system, the method comprising:

3 scanning an image to obtain the plurality of
4 calibration signals to an initial extent of the
5 image;

6 extrapolating the calibration signals to form
7 extended range signals;

8 applying multirate filtering to the extended
9 range signals to form a plurality of filtered
10 signals; and

11 truncating the plurality of filtered signals to
12 the initial extent to form said at least one
13 valid profile.

1 22. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the at
2 least one valid profile includes both a white and a black
3 calibration profile.

1 23. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

2 scanning an arbitrary image to obtain an
3 plurality of arbitrary signals; and employing
4 said at least one calibration profile to
5 correct the plurality of arbitrary signals.

1 24 An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer usable medium having computer readable program
3 code means embodied therein for causing the development
4 of a valid calibration profile for a scanning system, the
5 computer readable program code means in said article of
6 manufacture comprising computer readable program code
7 means for causing a computer to effect:

8 scanning an image to obtain the plurality of
9 calibration signals to an initial extent of the
10 image;

11 extrapolating the calibration signals to form
12 extended range signals;

13 applying multirate filtering to the extended
14 range signals to form a plurality of filtered
15 signals; and

16 truncating the plurality of filtered signals to
17 the initial extent to form said at least one
18 valid profile.

1 25. An article of manufacture as recited in claim 24,
2 wherein the at least one valid profile includes both a
3 white and a black calibration profile.

1 26. An article of manufacture as recited in claim 24,
2 further comprising computer readable program code means
3 for causing the computer to effect scanning an arbitrary
4 image to obtain an plurality of arbitrary signals; and
5 employing said at least one calibration profile to
6 correct the plurality of arbitrary signals

1 27. A program storage device readable by machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable
3 by the machine to perform method steps for developing a
4 valid calibration profile for a scanning system, said
5 method steps comprising:

6 scanning an image to obtain the plurality of
7 calibration signals to an initial extent of the
8 image;

9 extrapolating the calibration signals to form
10 extended range signals;

11 applying multirate filtering to the extended
12 range signals to form a plurality of filtered
13 signals; and

14 truncating the plurality of filtered signals to
15 the initial extent to form said at least one
16 valid profile.

1 28. A program storage device readable by machine, as
2 recited in claim 27, wherein the at least one valid
3 profile includes both a white and a black calibration
4 profile.

1 29. A program storage device readable by machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable
3 by the machine to perform method steps for developing a
4 valid calibration profile for a scanning system, as
5 recited in claim 27, said method further comprising
6 scanning an arbitrary image to obtain an plurality of
7 arbitrary signals; and employing said at least one
8 calibration profile to correct the plurality of arbitrary
9 signals.

1 30. A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the
2 filtering includes multirate filtering.

1 31. A system as recited in claim 30, wherein the
2 multirate filtering is repeated a number of times.

1 32. A method for scanning images, the method comprising:
2 providing a source of light;

3 measuring at a number of points on a
4 transparent object, the intensity of light
5 emitted from the source of light transmitted
6 through the transparent object and forming a
7 first raw profile; and

8 smoothing the first raw profile to form a
9 calibration profile.

1 33. A method as recited in claim 32, further comprising:

2 measuring the intensity of light from the
3 source of light transmitted through an opaque
4 object at the number of points to form a second
5 raw profile; and

6 smoothing the second raw profile to form a
7 black calibration profile.

1 34. A method as recited in claim 32, further comprising:

2 measuring the intensity of light from the
3 source of light transmitted through a semi-
4 transparent object at the number of points to
5 form a semi-transparent object profile; and

6 correcting the semi-transparent object profile
7 using the calibration profile.

1 35. A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the
2 calibration profile is a white calibration profile, and
3 further comprising means for correcting the semi-

10 measuring the intensity of light from the
11 source of light transmitted through an opaque
12 object at the number of points to form a second
13 raw profile; and

14 smoothing the second raw profile to form a
15 black calibration profile.

1 38. A computer program product comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means
3 embodied therein for causing images to be scanned, as
4 recited in claim 36, the computer readable program code
5 means in said computer program product comprising
6 computer readable program code means for causing a
7 computer to effect the method further comprising:

8 measuring the intensity of light from the
9 source of light transmitted through a semi-
10 transparent object at the number of points to
11 form a semi-transparent object profile; and

12 correcting the semi-transparent object profile
13 using the calibration profile.

1 39. A computer program product comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means
3 embodied therein for causing images to be scanned, as
4 recited in claim 38, the computer readable program code
5 means in said computer program product comprising
6 computer readable program code means for causing a
7 computer to further effect the method comprising means

8 for correcting the semi-transparent object profile using
9 the black calibration profile.

1 40. A system as recited in claim 33, wherein the
2 calibration profile is a white calibration profile.

1 41. A method for improving an initial calibration
2 profile having an initial profile extent to form an
3 improved calibration profile, the initial calibration
4 profile formed for a scanner employing a linear array CCD
5 and having a direction of motion, the method comprising:

6 applying multirate filtering to the initial
7 calibration profile so as to form a filtered
8 profile.

1 42. A system for scanning images as recited in claim 9,
2 wherein the transparent object is air.

1 43. A system as recited in claim 32, wherein the
2 transparent object is comprised of glass.

1 44. A computer program product as recited in claim 36,
2 wherein the transparent object is air.

1 45. A computer product as recited in claim 38, wherein
2 the transparent object is comprised of a glass base.

1 46. A computer program product as recited in claim 36,
2 wherein the smoothing is comprised of filtering,
3 extrapolation and decimation.

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- 1 47. A computer program product as recited in claim 46,
- 2 wherein the filtering includes multirate filtering.

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